

Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 22, 2013

SPECIAL MEETING

CLOSED SESSION 7:00 P.M.

A. Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation, under Government Code Section 54956.9(a): Claim Against the County of San Mateo for Refund of Property Tax Administration Fees

Attended by: Councilmembers Wozniak, Braunstein, Feierbach, Lieberman, Warden, City Manager Scoles, City Attorney Rennie. City Clerk Cook was excused from attending.

ADJOURNMENT at this time being 7:20 P.M.

Terri Cook
City Clerk

This meeting was not tape recorded or videotaped

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER 7:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Feierbach, Lieberman, Braunstein, Warden, Wozniak

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: None

Staff Present: City Manager Scoles, City Attorney Rennie, Police Chief DeSmidt, Deputy Fire Chief Gaffney, Community Development Director de Melo, Finance Director Fil, Public Works Director Oskoui, Parks and Recreation Director Gervais, Interim Information Services Manager Eggers, City Treasurer Violet, City Clerk Cook

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Mayor Wozniak.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Rennie reported that no action was taken during the Closed Session held earlier.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathleen Beasley, Belmont Library Manager, reported that the San Mateo County Library System earned a four-star rating, and she clarified that only three percent of library systems achieve this rating. She outlined upcoming events and classes to be held at the Library.

Perry Kennan, Belmont resident, commented regarding the Monthly Financial Statements. He noted that no payments to CalPERS have been reflected since July 2012. He stated that he was advised that payments are now being made through direct pay system and do not show up on the Financial Statements. He questioned whether this was acceptable to the City Council.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Wozniak stated that the City is recruiting applicants for its Commissions. She noted the upcoming Council Study Session on January 29 regarding the City-owned properties in the San Juan Canyon.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

Councilmember Braunstein requested the removal of Consent Item A (Motion Accepting FY 2014 Budget Calendar), and Councilmember Feierbach requested the removal of Consent Item E (Resolution Authorizing Acquisition of Budget Software from Frank, Rimerman Consulting (FRC) in the Amount of \$32,103.50) for separate consideration.

ITEMS APPROVED ON CONSENT CALENDAR

In response to Councilmember Warden's inquiry regarding Consent Item B (One-year Review of Design Review Ordinance), Community Development Director de Melo noted that the City Council requested a one-year review and no further reviews will be scheduled unless otherwise directed.

Motion to Accept One year review - Design Review Ordinance

Approval of Resolution 2013-013 of the City Council Recognizing Belmont's Participation in the San Mateo County Subregion for the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Process and Acceptance of the Assigned Housing Share for the City of Belmont

Approval of Resolution 2013-014 of the City Council Establishing a 2-hour Parking Zone on El Camino Real at Harbor Boulevard and 20-Minute Parking on the South Side of the Driveway at 1520 El Camino Real

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Warden, seconded by Councilmember Lieberman, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved, as amended, by a show of hands.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

Motion Accepting FY 2014 Budget Calendar

Councilmember Braunstein requested consideration of a more iterative process for budget review. He commented that the City Council is often rushed into budget adoption.

City Manager Scoles stated that budget discussions could be incorporated into a Priority Calendar workshop, and the Budget calendar could be modified at a future date.

Councilmember Warden noted that the budget does not have to be adopted at the first meeting in June, and flexibility is built into the schedule.

Council concurred with the request for early Budget review.

Resolution of the City Council Authorizing Acquisition of Budget Software from Frank, Rimerman Consulting (FRC) in the Amount of \$32,103.50

Councilmember Feierbach noted that the staff report referred to the Information Services (I.S.) Division. She pointed out that I.S. is a separate department, not a division, and she would like the staff report to be amended to reflect that fact.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Warden, seconded by Councilmember Braunstein, and unanimously approved by a show of hands to Accept the FY 2014 Budget Calendar and to approve Resolution 2013-015 Authorizing Acquisition of Budget Software from Frank, Rimerman Consulting (FRC) in the Amount of \$32,103.50.

OTHER BUSINESS

Consideration of a Recommendation to Complete the CEQA Analysis and Bid Documents for the Davey Glen Park Project

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais introduced the architect for the Davey Glen Park site. He outlined the reviews that were made on this project by the Parks and Recreation and Planning Commissions. He explained that the Central Neighborhood is an underserved neighborhood insofar as parks are concerned. The addition of this park will fulfill the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, and completes the Ross Woods project. He explained that this land was set aside by the developer for a park rather than paying in-lieu park fees.

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais described the public outreach process that was implemented since 2007. He described the site and the park design, and noted that designing the park entrance was a challenge due to the slope and the need for ADA (Americans with Disabilities) compliance.

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais outlined the various components of the proposed park, including design elements, materials, and interpretive signage. He described the interactive water feature that would capture storm water and keep it on site. He pointed out that soil mounds would be created and covered with synthetic turf, which reduces maintenance. He pointed out that a picnic area would be included. He explained that the park has a sustainable design and provides for low maintenance. He outlined the project budget and described ways to address the budget shortfall.

Brent Cattong, Architect, stated that native plants would be utilized, and he explained that sedge does not need to be mowed. He noted that \$100,000 of the project budget is being spent just to address the ADA issues.

RECESS: 8:20 P.M.
RECONVENE: 8:25 P.M.

In response to Council questions, Parks and Recreation Director Gervais stated that removal of up to 15 eucalyptus trees will reduce fire danger. He also clarified that synthetic materials are being used to reduce maintenance and water use, and are durable.

Councilmember Feierbach expressed concern regarding safety due to the steep slope.

Councilmember Warden suggested that replacement trees should be 24- or 36-inch box trees rather than 15-gallon trees.

Councilmember Lieberman suggested finding a way to make it safe to retrieve a ball that might go over the fence.

Jim Callan expressed support for the park.

Marla Becker, Belmont resident, stated that she watched how Semeria Park transformed the neighborhood and promotes a sense of community. She stated that such gathering places are lacking in this neighborhood. She expressed support for the design, which provides opportunities for many users.

Susan Wright, Parks and Recreation Commission, expressed support for the project. She noted that input was received by all stakeholders, and the park can be used by all ages.

Karen Haas-Foletta, Footsteps Child Care, expressed support for the natural features of the proposed park. She noted that Belmont has other parks with more active structures, and Davey Glen will provide an additional opportunity for different kinds of play.

David Long, Central Neighborhood Association, expressed support for the park. He noted that park space is needed in the neighborhood. He commented that he does not like the use of turf but could support it. He pointed out that this will be the only ADA-compliant park in the Central neighborhood. He expressed appreciation for Davey Tree Company's involvement in the project, and his confidence that the park can be built within budget.

Mayor Wozniak noted that the previous plans for this park were ambitious and exceeded the budget. She acknowledged that input from the stakeholders have been honored, and most should be satisfied with the new plan. She expressed support for the proposed landscaping, and suggested seeking donations for individual components.

Councilmember Feierbach thanked the architect, the ad hoc committee, staff and Commissioners for their work on this project.

Councilmember Braunstein noted that staff listened to community input. He expressed support for the design, and noted that it is supported by most people. He also expressed support for fundraising efforts.

Councilmember Lieberman expressed support for the design. He stated that he understood the reason for using turf. He commented that he felt confident that the park could be built within budget.

Councilmember Warden stated that he was skeptical that this park would ever be built. He noted that the proposed design is the best fit for the difficult site. He expressed support for fundraising, especially to upgrade the size of the trees.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Warden, seconded by Councilmember Braunstein, and unanimously approved by a show of hands to approve the conceptual design for Davey Glen Park, and to move forward with the development of the CEQA (California Environmental Quality) documents necessary to complete the project.

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, AND COUNCIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSIGNMENT UPDATES, AND STAFF ITEMS

Verbal report from Councilmembers on Intergovernmental (IGR) and Subcommittee Assignments

Councilmember Braunstein outlined topics that were discussed at the recent Office of Emergency Services meeting. He also noted that he attended a School Safety Committee hosted by City staff.

Councilmember Lieberman outlined topics that were discussed at the Pre-Hospital Emergency Services Joint Powers Authority meeting.

Council Intergovernmental Assignments for 2013 (held over from January 8, 2013)

City Council reviewed their various Intergovernmental Committee assignments and made adjustments to the list. It concurred to permanently remove the Infrastructure Committee from the list, and to combine other assignments. Additional committees were added. A change was made to the San Francisco Roundtable, and Councilmember Warden agreed to be the delegate, with Councilmember Feierbach as the alternate.

City Clerk Cook noted that a request was made by Redwood City Mayor Aguirre to form a Blue Ribbon Task Force of the member agencies for South Bay Waste Management Authority (SBWMA) to discuss changes in its governance structure. Councilmember Warden pointed out that the City of Belmont previously requested this change, and he offered to serve as the delegate. Councilmember Lieberman offered to be the alternate.

Verbal Report from City Manager

City Manager Scoles noted that this month reflects the start of the new shared fire command structure. He noted that sales tax receipts for the City of Belmont have shown an increase in four out of the last six quarters. He noted that previous efforts on cleaning of the creek downstream prevented flooding during the storms that took place over the holidays. He announced that the Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge won another civil engineer award.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 9:30 P.M.

**Terri Cook
City Clerk**

Meeting audio-recorded and videotaped.